SECRET

21 September 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Training Branch, Support Staff

SUBJECT : Critique of Microdensitometer Training Program

1. The Microdensitometer Training Program was conducted by the [redacted] under PAR-225, Contract [redacted] The undersigned attended the 3 - 6 August 1964 training period. 25X1 25X1

2. The "Limited Training Phase" covered the theory, design and application of microdensitometers, operation of some microdensitometers and a tour of part of the [redacted] The training was conducted over a period of four days, one-half day of which was used for the tour of the microdensitometry facilities in the [redacted] The fourth day was used for a question-and-answer period. 25X1 25X1 25X1

3. The training program appeared to have been well planned in advance. The primary instructor, [redacted] had a good grasp of the subject, especially in the theory and design of microdensitometers. At the beginning of the program, each trainee was given a 21-page document which covered the subject very well considering the brevity of the document and the complexity of the subject. Because microdensitometry is still far from being an exact science, many of the procedures used are based on empiricism and give relative, rather than absolute, results. For this reason [redacted] could not state unequivocally that the user must employ a slit having a certain shape or size to scan a specific type of emulsion or to obtain a specific result. 25X1 25X1

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4. This program might be improved if [redacted] did the following: 25X1

a. Provide some "required reading" material for the trainee to study before he goes to [redacted] to take the program. This should stimulate his interest in, and prepare him for, the program. The required reading could also be used to tell the trainee of some of the "why" of microdensitometry so that he does not feel that it is an end in itself. 25X1

b. Provide the trainee with a fairly comprehensive bibliography on the subject of microdensitometry and on related fields such as modulation transfer function. The concept of modulation transfer function is so closely interwoven with microdensitometry that it is difficult to define where one stops and the other starts.

25X1

[redacted]
Development Branch, P&DS

Orig. & 1 - Addressee